

Amrit Kaal:

Transforming India's Garment and Textile Industry into a Global Powerhouse

By Dr. Annu Kumari

As India marches towards its Amrit Kaal vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, the garment and textile sector stands at the forefront of this economic renaissance. Valued at around \$220 billion and employing over 45 million people, predominantly in rural and semi-urban areas. This industry is not just a livelihood provider but a cornerstone of India's export economy, contributing an estimated 10–12% to total merchandise exports.

Government Policies Fuelling Growth

The government's strategic interventions are aligning closely with industry needs. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for textiles, with a financial outlay of ₹10,683 crore, incentivizes manufacturing of man-made fibre (MMF) apparel, MMF fabrics, and technical textiles. Seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks (PM MITRA), planned across about 3,000 acres each, promise integrated "plug and play" infrastructure and are expected to significantly reduce logistics and operational costs. The National Technical Textiles Mission targets a technical textiles market of about \$40 billion by 2030, with a thrust on geotextiles, medical textiles, protective gear, and smart fabrics.

Additionally, RoSCTL (Rebate of State and Central Levies and Taxes) and duty drawback schemes make Indian exports more competitive by effectively making exports almost tax-free, providing Duty Credit Scrips that can be used to pay import duties, and thereby increasing the net earnings of Indian exporters even when facing external pressures such as US and EU trade measures.

Industry Transformation and Future Scope

Amrit Kaal heralds a shift from volume-driven exports to value-added, sustainable production and branding. Under the broader "Make in India" and "Viksit Bharat 2047" agenda, "Crafted in India" positioning allows traditional crafts like Khadi, Banarasi silk, Chanderi, Kanchipuram, and other handloom clusters to integrate with 3D printing, AI-driven design, and block chain-based traceability, linking heritage with high technology and compliance.

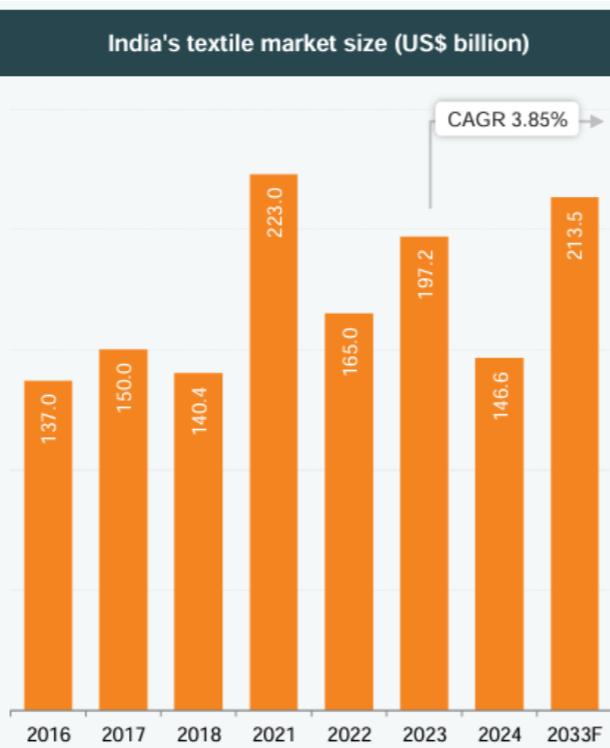


Fig 1. India's Textile Market Size (US\$ billion) (Source: IBEF Report 2025)

By 2030, technical textiles alone are projected to generate several million additional jobs across manufacturing, installation, and services, while sustainable fashion driven by GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard)-certified organic cotton and recycled polyester aims at a rapidly growing global green apparel market estimated in the mid-tens of billions of dollars. India, already a major producer of organic cotton, is well placed to supply certified sustainable fibres and fabrics to global brands.

According to IMARC, the Indian textile market size was valued at US\$ 146.55 billion in 2024. The market is projected to reach US\$ 213.51 billion by 2033, exhibiting a CAGR of 3.85% from 2025–2033 (refer Fig. 1). India's textiles and apparel exports are widely projected, by industry bodies and export councils, to move towards the \$65 billion mark in the medium term, supported by Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with partners such as the UAE and Australia and ongoing negotiations with the EU and UK. Capacity expansion, automation via Industry 4.0, skill upgradation through schemes like SAMARTH (aiming to



train up to 10 lakh workers in the organised and traditional sectors), and enhanced R&D in bio-fabrics and functional textiles together position India to aspire for a double-digit share in the global apparel and textiles market by 2047.

Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

Amid challenges like rising cotton prices, fluctuating global demand, and geopolitical issues such as higher tariffs in major export markets, Indian textile and apparel companies are facing clear short- to medium-term pressure. At the same time, however, nearshoring and the "China+1" sourcing strategy are encouraging global brands to spread their sourcing beyond China, which creates a strong opportunity for India to secure additional orders worth several billion dollars a year, particularly in core product categories such as knitted garments, woven apparel, and home textiles. Meanwhile, emerging e-commerce and digital trade rails such as ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) are gradually opening new channels for small and medium exporters, enabling clusters of weavers, knitters, and garment manufacturers to reach domestic and global buyers more efficiently. To stay ahead in this evolving landscape, industry leaders will need to invest in circular economy models, such as recycling, re-use, and waste reduction across the value chain as well as digital supply chains that use data, AI, and end-to-end visibility to meet buyers' ESG and compliance expectations. Firms that successfully align with these shifts will be best placed to participate in a global textile and apparel market that is expected to approach the trillion-dollar mark over the coming decades.

(Sources: Ministry of Textiles Annual Report 2024-25, NITI Aayog Viksit Bharat@2047, IBEF Textile Sector Profile)

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Dr. Annu Kumari is an academic and design professional associated with the School of Fashion Design, FDDI, with more than 10 years of experience across academia and industry. She completed her Ph.D. in Fashion Technology (Apparel Sizing) from NIFT Delhi (2024), where her doctoral research focused on the systematic development of a standard size chart for Indian plus-size women, carried out under the IndiaSize Project, a national initiative of NIFT Delhi and the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

Her research involved large-scale anthropometric data analysis and addressed a critical gap in inclusive apparel sizing in India. She has previously worked for three years at the Ethiopian Institute of Textile & Fashion Technology (EiTEx), Ethiopia as Principal Investigator for three institutionally funded projects and served as Learning Research Implementation officer. Currently at FDDI, she contributes to teaching, research, curriculum development, and academic initiatives.